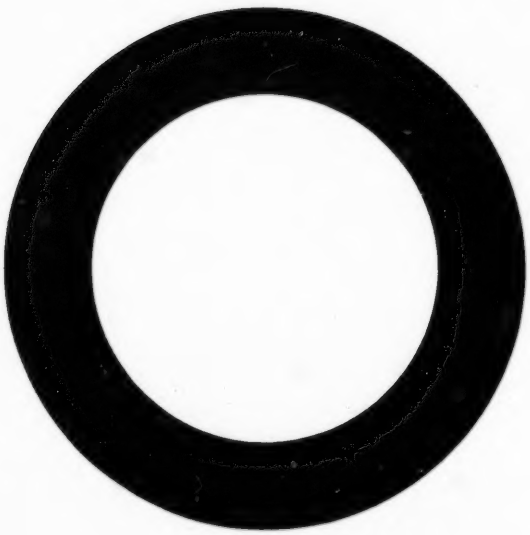

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Summary record of the 6th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 12 June 2008, at 10.25 a.m.

Chairperson: Mr. Takasu ..... (Japan)

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Letter dated 30 May 2008 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Chairperson of the Peacebuilding Commission

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08-37768 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda (PBC/2/OC/11)

1. *The agenda was adopted.*

Letter dated 30 May 2008 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Chairperson of the Peacebuilding Commission (A/62/864-S/2008/383)

2. **The Chairperson** drew attention to the letter dated 30 May 2008 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Chairperson of the Peacebuilding Commission (A/62/864-S/2008/383). The letter conveyed acceptance by the Security Council of a request from the Government of the Central African Republic that the Central African Republic should be placed on the agenda of the Peacebuilding Commission. By conveying its acceptance of that request, the Security Council was inviting the Peacebuilding Commission to provide advice on the situation in the Central African Republic.

3. **Mr. Bozizé** (Central African Republic) welcomed the opportunity to address the meeting and thanked the Bureau of the Committee and the Peacebuilding Support Office for their efforts to facilitate the consideration by the Peacebuilding Commission of the request submitted by his Government. The Central African Republic was in the process of emerging from a protracted series of political and military crises which had weakened socio-economic structures and engendered instability throughout the national territory. Since the change of Administration in March 2003, the authorities had been working to mitigate the effects of those crises by, inter alia, rebuilding the economy, strengthening and reforming State institutions and improving political and security conditions. A series of peace agreements had been concluded with all armed groups and his Government had invited the International Criminal Court to investigate the situation in the country.

4. Much remained to be done, however. The imminent signature by all political and military groups of a global peace agreement was one of the prerequisites for national reconciliation and lasting peace. Inclusive national dialogue would offer fresh opportunities to foster socio-economic cohesion and deepen the democratic process, and his Government was committed to investing substantial human and financial resources to that end. Indeed, an expert group had already been established to ensure that the desired results were achieved as soon as possible. The support of the Peacebuilding Commission would be vital in the medium term.

5. He expressed his gratitude to Belgium for its willingness to chair the proposed country-specific configuration on the Central African Republic and for its ongoing commitment to his country, which had been illustrated, inter alia, by the recent participation of Belgian experts in a national seminar on security sector reform. He also wished to acknowledge the contribution of the Peacebuilding Fund, which had provided significant financial resources for the preparation of the inclusive political dialogue. The Fund was currently providing support for programmes in the areas of security sector reform, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and good governance. Lastly, he assured the Committee that his Government would give full consideration to all future recommendations of the Peacebuilding Commission and make judicious use of its assistance. He invited the members of the Commission to visit the Central African Republic so that they could witness at first hand the situation on the ground and gain a better understanding of the difficulties facing the country's people.

6. **The Chairperson** said that he took it that the Committee wished to take note of the letter dated 30 May 2008 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Chairperson of the Peacebuilding Commission, thereby deciding to place the Central African Republic on the agenda of the Commission.

7. *It was so decided.*

8. **The Chairperson** said that, on the basis of the Committee's decision to place the Central African Republic on the Commission's agenda, and pursuant to paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 60/180, Security Council resolution 1645 (2005) and the Commission's provisional rules of procedure (PBC/1/OC/3), he took it that the Committee wished to establish a country-specific configuration on the Central African Republic, with membership consisting, initially, of the members of the Committee, pending further consultations within the Committee on additional members.

9. *It was so decided.*

10. **The Chairperson** said that, on the basis of prior consultations with the Government of the Central African Republic and members of the Committee, he took it that the Committee wished to elect by acclamation Belgium to the office of Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission's country-specific configuration on the Central African Republic.

11. *It was so decided.*

12. **Mr. Abdelaziz** (Egypt), speaking as the coordinator of the African States on matters relating to the Peacebuilding Commission, expressed his appreciation and support for President Bozizé's personal involvement in efforts to achieve national reconciliation and lasting peace in the Central African Republic. The Peacebuilding Commission was committed to working in partnership with the Government of the Central African Republic, with due respect for the principle of national ownership, in order to draw up the relevant strategic plans and provide the financial resources necessary for their speedy implementation. The Belgian Government's willingness to chair the country-specific configuration on the Central African Republic was commendable and he trusted that the amicable relationship between the two countries would contribute to the success of that enterprise.

13. **Mr. Lacroix** (France) endorsed the remarks made by the representative of Egypt and recalled the magnitude of the challenges facing the Central African Republic. The Peacebuilding Commission must now define the priority areas of its work, some of which had already been identified by President Bozizé and the Security Council. He commended the Government of the Central African Republic for the work it had done to prepare for its involvement with the Peacebuilding Commission and stressed that the latter must play a full role in mobilizing and coordinating the relevant international partners. France had been an active partner of the Central African Republic for many years and stood ready to participate in the efforts undertaken by the Peacebuilding Commission.

14. **Mr. Cabral** (Guinea-Bissau) commended the Government of the Central African Republic for its willingness to re-establish peace and security and address the country's pressing development needs. He was convinced that, with the support of the President, the national institutions would build a frank and open relationship with the Peacebuilding Commission, thereby enabling the country to benefit, as it was entitled to, from the support of the international community. He reiterated his commitment to raising awareness and improving understanding of the situation on the ground in the Central African Republic.

15. **Mr. Tarragô** (Brazil) welcomed the Committee's decision to include the Central African Republic on the agenda of the Peacebuilding Commission, which he trusted would lead to peace dividends for that nation. It was to be hoped that the Commission, with assistance from the Peacebuilding Support Office, would add value to the peacebuilding process by mobilizing the funds needed for the implementation of the integrated strategy designed to pave the way for sustainable development. The Government and people of the Central African Republic could count on the support of Brazil in that endeavour.

16. **Ms. Gallardo Hernández** (El Salvador) welcomed the opportunity afforded to the Peacebuilding Commission to support the process of national reconciliation in the Central African Republic. The Working Group on Lessons Learned, within the framework of which the members of the Commission, as well as representatives of the wider United Nations system, came together to discuss the direction of future peacebuilding activities, was also at the disposal of the Government of the Central African Republic. As a post-conflict country, El Salvador had first-hand experience of the challenges facing the Central African Republic. However, she was convinced that, with the support of the United Nations, the peacebuilding process in that country would reach a successful conclusion.

17. **Mr. Kleib** (Indonesia) said that President Bozizé's presence at the current meeting reflected the importance attached by his country to the work of the Peacebuilding Commission and also served to remind the latter that it must do its utmost to develop concrete strategies that would benefit the people of the Central African Republic. The Commission, by including the Central African Republic on its agenda and taking as its basis inputs from the Government of the Central African Republic and other relevant national stakeholders, would be in a position to identify priority areas of action. He therefore supported the establishment of the country-specific configuration.

18. **Mr. Geurts** (European Community) expressed strong support for the establishment of a country-specific configuration on the Central African Republic, welcomed the recent signature of a number of peace agreements and reiterated that it was only through inclusive dialogue with all relevant parties that the Central African Republic would achieve national reconciliation.

19. He also welcomed the imminent establishment of a Peacebuilding Fund programme, in the amount of $10 million, for the Central African Republic. Those resources should be channelled towards the most urgent priorities, including disarmament, demobilization and reintegration activities. As an institutional donor, the European Community was involved in efforts to improve security conditions and support development processes in the country. The cooperative spirit displayed by the development partners augured well for the adoption of a comprehensive and constructive approach to the situation in the Central African Republic.

20. **Mr. Grauls** (Belgium) commended the Central African Republic for its commitment to restoring peace and stability and for its willingness to forge a new partnership with the Peacebuilding Commission. The Central African Republic deserved the support of the international community, which would be vital to ensure the successful outcome of the peacebuilding process; he hoped that, as Chair of the country-specific configuration, Belgium would be able to draw on its knowledge of the surrounding region to take that process forward.

21. **Mr. Bozizé** (Central African Republic) expressed his gratitude to the Committee for its decision to include his country on the agenda of the Peacebuilding Commission and to Belgium for agreeing to chair the relevant country-specific configuration. With the support of the international community, his Government had done its utmost to ensure that the country and its people could leave behind the vestiges of past conflicts and build lasting peace and security. The newly established partnership between the Central African Republic and the Peacebuilding Commission would serve to encourage his Government to pursue that process to its logical conclusion.

22. **The Chairperson** said that he intended to respond to the letter from the President of the Security Council in order to convey the decisions taken by the Committee at the current meeting and to indicate that the Peacebuilding Commission would remain in close contact with the Security Council throughout its strategic engagement with the Central African Republic.

The meeting rose at 11.05 a.m.